

E 448

.A32

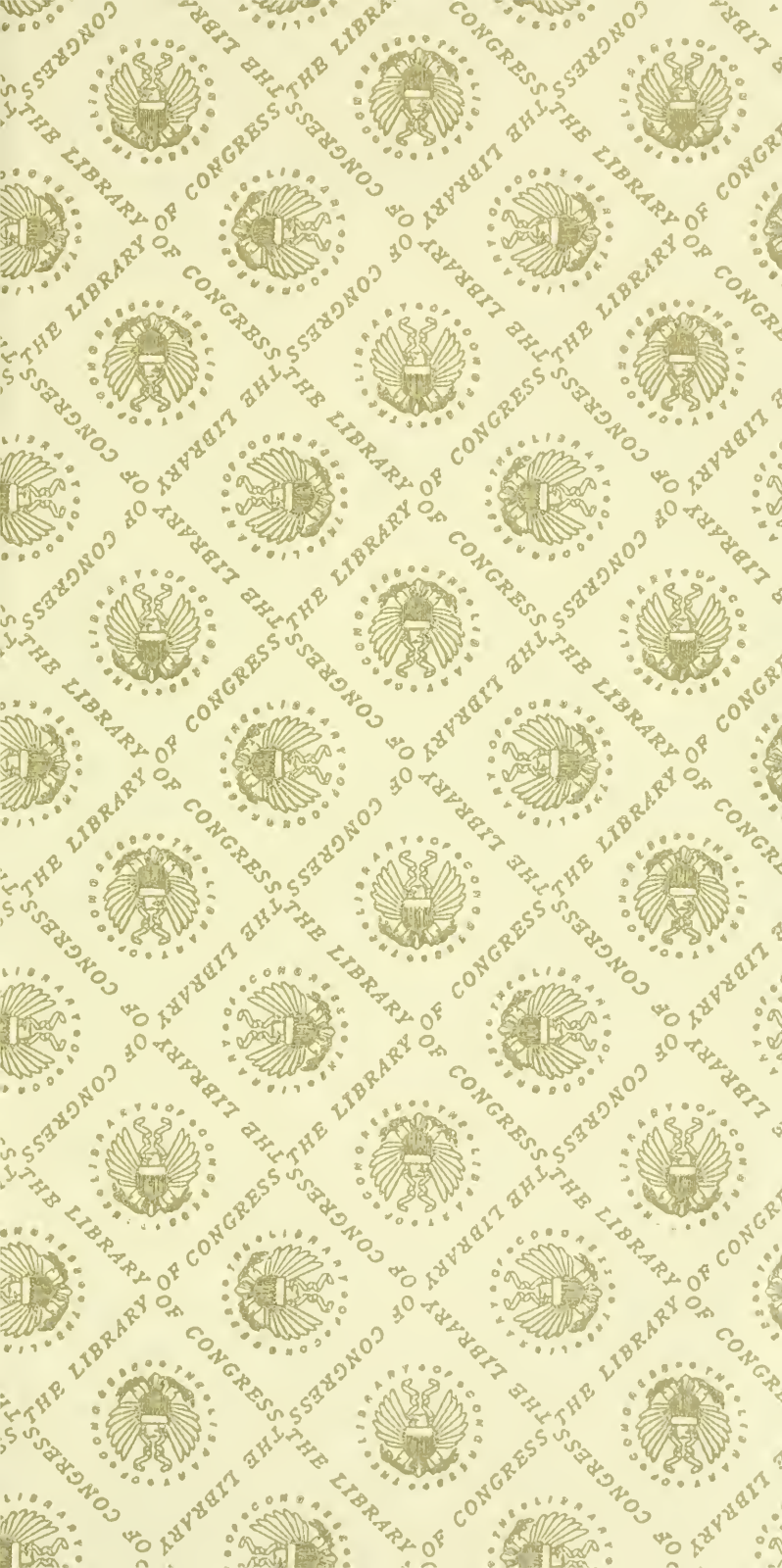
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00001734866







CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Alabama State Colonization Society,

AND THE

Officers for the Year 1852,

WITH

An Address, by the President, to the People of the State.



MONTGOMERY :

JOB OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA JOURNAL.

1851.

E448
A32

CONSTITUTION, &C.

On the 10th December, 1851, a meeting was held in the City of Montgomery, for the establishment of a State Colonization Society, at which the following Constitution was adopted :

CONSTITUTION OF THE ALABAMA STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

ARTICLE 1.—The name of this Society is the ALABAMA STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

ART. 2.—The object of the Society is to promote the emigration of free colored persons from the State of Alabama, to Africa.

ART. 3.—The officers of the Society are a President, such number of Vice Presidents as the Society may appoint, a Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, who are elected annually, and remain in office until their successors are elected.

ART. 4.—The President, or, in his absence, the Vice President, residing in the City of Montgomery, with the Secretaries and Treasurer, constitute an Executive Committee, who must meet from time to time, as may be necessary, and a majority of whom may act.

ART. 5.—It is the duty of the Executive Committee to superintend the affairs of the Society—to fill all vacancies until the next annual meeting—to make the necessary arrangements for the removal of such free persons of color of this State as desire to emigrate to Liberia—to receive subscriptions and donations in aid of the Society, and make report of their proceedings to each annual meeting thereof.

ART. 6.—The annual meeting of the Society is in the City of Montgomery, on the 1st Monday in January, for the election of officers and transaction of business, at which the President shall preside ; or, in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents.

ART. 7.—Any person contributing annually to the Society a sum not less than two dollars, is a member thereof. The payment of twenty dollars constitutes any person a life member.

ART. 8.—The Recording Secretary must keep a book, and record therein the names of all the members, stating opposite their names which are life members, and also record therein the transactions of the Society at its annual meeting, and of the proceedings of the Executive Committee.

ART. 9.—The Corresponding Secretary must transact the correspondence of the Society.

ART. 10.—The Treasurer must keep the funds of the Society, pay them out on the order of the Executive Committee, and make report to the annual meeting of the Society, or to the Executive Committee when required, the receipts and disbursements, and the amount on hand.

ART. 11.—The Society, in conjunction with others which are, or may be established in the Southwestern States, having a similar object in view, may establish a Joint Colonization Board, to be located in New Orleans, for the purpose of aiding emigration to Liberia, under such rules and regulations as may be agreed on.

ART. 12.—Societies formed in any part of this State, having the same object in view, may, on application, become auxilliary to this Society.

ART. 13.—The Vice Presidents have authority to receive the subscriptions of members, and such donations as may be made to the Society, forwarding the same to the Treasurer, as soon as practicable after their receipt.

ART. 14.—This Constitution may be amended by the vote of the majority of the members present at any annual meeting.

The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Society :

PRESIDENT.

Hon. JOHN J. ORMOND, of Tuscaloosa.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

ELBERT A. HOLT, of Montgomery County,

ABNER McGEHEE, “ “ “

Hon. J. A. WINSTON, of Sumter “

Hon. FRANCIS LYON, of Marengo “

Hon. W. P. CHILTON, of Macon “

Hon. DANIEL COLEMAN, of Limestone “

Gen. E. D. KING, of Perry “

Hon. D. G. LIGON, of Lawrence “

Hon. L. TARRANT, of Talladega “

Gen. MOSES KELLY, of Jefferson “

Hon. DANIEL E. WATROUS, of Shelby “

TREASURER,

E. M. HASTINGS, of Montgomery.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

L. B. HANSFORD, of Montgomery,

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

Rev. A. A. LIPSCOMB,

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

The Alabama State Colonization Society, for the purpose of aiding free persons of color to emigrate to Liberia, having been organized, the society desires to make known its true character; its objects and design; and to satisfy the people of the State, that it is entitled to their sympathy and patronage.

The objection which has been generally urged in this State, to a co-operation with the Colonization Society of Washington City, is, that that Society is at least to some extent, either in the hands, or under the control of persons, many of whom are unfriendly to Southern institutions, and who favor that Society as a means of indirectly assailing the institution of Slavery in the Southern States. Whether this belief is well or ill founded, the effect is the same—a strong indisposition on the part of Southern men to affiliate with them.

It is an undeniable truth, that the presence of the free colored man in the midst of a slave population, is a great evil, which is felt and acknowledged as such; an evil which every consideration of self-interest prompts us to remove. Such is the sense of this evil, that at the present Session of the Legislature, the question has been mooted, and referred to the Judiciary Committee for its solution, whether laws may not be passed, consistent with the Constitution, requiring them to leave the State. There is now, and has been for many years, a most stringent law upon our statute book, requiring all free persons of color who have come to the State since 1832, to leave it; and our law forbids the emancipation of slaves within the State. It is then, manifest, that the presence of the Free Negro amongst us, is considered an evil of the first magnitude, and an evil which cannot be removed from amongst us by the passage of laws.

In this condition of things, the American Colonization Society offers to unite with us, and to aid in their removal, and we decline the proffered aid, and refuse our co-operation. Surely, then, we are called on by every consideration which can impel reasonable men to action, to put our own shoulders to the wheel. The laws which have been passed to drive them from the State, have been rendered powerless, by the sympathies of our own people. These considerations, have led to the organization of the Alabama State Colonization Society. By reference to the constitution, it will be seen, that it has no connection with the Society at Washington, and can only have connection with other similar Societies in the Southwest. It being, then, distinctly admitted that the evil exists—that the law is powerless to remove it—that it can only be removed by a union of individual effort, we confidently expect that southern men will gladly avail themselves of the only feasible mode of eradicating this acknowledged evil. It is perfectly obvious that the free negro has neither the means nor the intelligence, to provide for his own emigration. No matter how much he may be disposed to leave a country, where, although it is the land of his birth, he is in fact an alien and a stranger; where, although he is an object of distrust and suspicion, and must forever continue a member of a degraded caste, he is nevertheless compelled to remain without the hope of being able to better his condition, and without the stimulus thereby afforded to exertion.

The question has thus far been considered merely as regards our own interest in the transportation of the free colored population, but there is a higher elevation from which it may be viewed, and one which comes home to the bosom and conscience of every Christian and Philanthropist, who acknowledges the obligation of doing all the good in his power. Africa is involved in the darkness of paganism, relieved at scattering intervals, by a scarcely less revolting Mahomedanism. That vast continent is the abode of wretchedness, and vice, and misery, so fearful, that the mind shrinks back aghast from its contemplation. Scarcely a ray of civilization has yet penetrated that benighted region; and if we may judge of the future from the past, never will, but through the agency of the black man civilized and christianized by intercourse with the whites. His constitution will enable him to withstand the deleterious influence of the climate of Africa, to which so many white men have fallen a sacrifice, and by precept and example, teach

them the arts of civilized life, reclaim them from barbarism, and carry among them the blessings of christianity and civilization.

Do we mistake our countrymen, in supposing they will join us in the only feasible plan for the accomplishment of an object which self-interest, religion, and philanthropy, alike demand? We are satisfied we do not, and therefore confidently and earnestly solicit their aid. Any donations which may be made, will be sacredly devoted to the purpose indicated by our Constitution, or in accordance with any particular direction which may be given to it by the donor. Come forward then, fellow citizens, and join us in urging forward this cause, so emphatically the cause of our country, and of humanity.

Montgomery, Dec. 11th, 1851.



